

## **DURHAM HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, March 26, 2014**  
**Council Chambers – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor – City Hall - 3:00 p.m.**

The Durham Homeless Services Advisory Committee (HSAC) met on the above date and time.

**Committee Members Present:** Chair Minnie Forte-Brown, Vice-Chair John Bowman, Secretary, Dr. Deborah Bailey, Director of Academic Services Learning Program at NCCU; Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden, Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager, Edward Abdullah, Lindsey Jordan Arledge, VA Medical Center; Drew Cummings, Assistant County Manager; Reverend Warren Herndon, Jackie Love, Homeless & At-Risk Liaison for Durham Public Schools; Charita McCollers, MSW, Lincoln Community Health Center; Shannon McLean, Chief Development Operations Officer, Durham Housing Authority; Kimberly Monroe, Fred Stoppelkamp, Reverend Chris Tuttle, Mayme Webb-Bledsoe, Duke University Medical Center; Pearlie Williams, NAMI Durham; Stephanie Williams, Alliance Behavioral Healthcare; and Jason Wimmer, OEWD.

**Committee Members with Excused Absences -** Sue Jackson, Executive Dean/Department Head Continuing Education at Durham Technical Community College; Robert “Bo” Glenn, Jr. and Lois Harvin-Ravin, Durham County Veterans Services Officer.

**Committee Members Absent:** County Commissioner Michael Page and Captain Stan Harris, Durham County Sheriff’s Department.

**Also Present:** Director Reginald Johnson, Project Managers Lloyd Schmeidler and Matthew Schnars (Department of Community Development); Joi Stepney (Housing for New Hope (HNH)); Bettina Karpathian, Tara Isley (LATCH); Latasha Wilson (SAVE Healthcare Services); Pam Karriker (Citizen); Patrice Nelson (Urban Ministries of Durham (UMD)); Catherine Pliel (Durham Inter-faith Hospitality Network (IHN)); Michael Becketts, Director (Durham County Social Services Department (DSS)); Jan Cromartie (DCABP); Darryl P. Hicklen (USA Veterans/Healing with CAARE, Inc.).

**Subject: Call to Order/Welcome**

Chair Forte-Brown called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m. and read aloud the four goals of the HSAC. A moment of silence was held to reflect upon these goals.

**Subject: Minutes Review & Approval**

**Motion** by Reverend Herndon seconded by Vice-Chair Bowman to approve the minutes of February 26, 2014 was unanimously approved at 3:07 p.m.

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**Subject: Public Comment Period – Reverend Warren Herndon (HSAC), Patrice Nelson, (UMD), Bettina Karpathian (LATCH)**

Reverend Herndon handed out a flyer regarding the upcoming Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. “Good Neighbor Breakfast” being held April 5, 2014 from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, downtown Durham. According to Reverend Herndon, this event is a collaborative effort between the Martin Luther King, Jr. Steering Committee, First Presbyterian Church, Durham Congregations In Action, Durham Human Relations Department/Durham Human Relations Commission, Duke/Durham Partnership and many other organizations. Reverend Herndon extended an invitation to HSAC members to attend this event.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden wanted to know if the Durham Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance was part of this initiative, were they aware of it and if they were invited.

Reverend Herndon responded that they were aware of the event but that they are currently not a part of this initiative. He added that they are all working in partnership.

Patrice Nelson, Director (UMD) made brief comments concerning the following items:

- ❖ The Performance Report as it relates to UMD
- ❖ 100K Homes Campaign
- ❖ Renovations/Upgrades at UMD
- ❖ Case Management capacity has been expanded through a partnership with local schools of social work. A space is being built at UMD for ten interns from North Carolina Central University (NCCU), Duke and Shaw Universities that work with UMD case managers.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden’s questions regarding the size of the UMD Board and the demographics in terms of race, Ms. Nelson responded the board has 23 members and she thinks that 1/3 is African-American. She stated that she could get this information for Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden.

Committee Member Webb-Bledsoe wanted to know out of all the people that UMD serves what percentage are youth between 14 to 24 years of age. Ms. Nelson stated that they do not have any unaccompanied youth under 18 years old in their shelter. However, they do have people between 18 and 30 years of age in their shelter.

Chair Forte-Brown reminded everyone that public comments are limited to three minutes and anyone doing presentations should get on the HSAC’s agenda.

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Bettina Karpathian, Nurse Case Manager (LATCH) provided an update on Respite Care. She reported that Sally Wilson, Director (Project Access) has received fiduciary permission to manage accounts.

Tara Isley (LATCH) is currently working on the social media aspect by creating a Facebook page which will provide important updates to the community.

Drew Cummings, Assistant County Manager noted that there is a “plug” in for the Respite Pilot and hopefully it will be funded by the County in the FY 2014-15 budget.

**Subject: Youth Homelessness Subcommittee – Mayme Webb-Bledsoe**

Committee Member Webb-Bledsoe gave the following summary of some of the work that has been done this year by the Youth Homelessness Subcommittee:

- ❖ The subcommittee has begun a discussion on how to conduct a Durham Homeless Point-in-Time Count. They reviewed different types of counts that could possibly be done which would involve youth conducting the count, a single day count versus a multiple day count or determining a hub location where youth could go and complete surveys, receive food, give-aways, various other items, resources and referrals for support. After discussing the various types of counts the subcommittee would like to do the following:
  - Have a youth involvement consensus on small numbers of youth, from 2-4 from their stakeholder’s organization to assist with their surveys.
  - Invite Durham Public Schools (DPS) to discuss the options of having their social workers involved with this process as well as DPS helping to get the word out about the count.
  - Have 2-day count with stakeholders, programs and agencies with their youth concluding with a final day where the hub is available for youth.
  - Possible dates of the count would be October 22, 2014 – October 24, 2014 with October 25, 2014 being the hub day.
  - The next step would be to meet in April 2014 to create an action plan to accomplish this goal.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden hopes that Committee Member Webb-Bledsoe will include the Durham Youth Commission for the count. Committee Member Webb-Bledsoe noted that Evelyn Scott (Durham Youth Commission) is a part of the subcommittee as well as other service providers who work with youth in the area. She added that youth who are currently homeless along with members of the HSAC are also invited to participate in the conversation. The next meeting of the Youth Homelessness Subcommittee is scheduled for April 25, 2014.

**Subject: Performance Management**

Vice-Chair Bowman provided an update on the performance measures and reviewed the following documents with the HSAC:

- ❖ Durham Homeless Services Advisory Committee: HEARTH Performance Measures
- ❖ Durham CoC Performance Report Card: July 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013
- ❖ HSAC – Program Performance Measures SYSTEM LEVEL July 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013

According to the Report Card, Vice-Chair Bowman pointed out that with the exception of one program, Volunteers of America, all of the organizations are performing at medium or high level. Also, other supporting documents indicated that for Emergency Shelter-Individuals, Emergency Shelter-Families, Transitional Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing, providers are at or exceeding benchmark.

Comments were received from Matthew Schnars, Project Manager (Department of Community Development) regarding the number of households served by organizations between July, 2013 and December 2013.

In response to Reverend Herndon's question about whether the number reported concerning people seeking support through Emergency Shelter was getting any better or decreasing, Mr. Schnars responded that the AHAR shows a bit of a down trend.

**Subject: Coordinated Intake**

Michael Becketts, Director (DSS) presented an update on coordinated intake services. He noted that the coordinated intake position would not be funded in Social Services. However, they are not asking for any money, instead they will be using the 15 staff members already at Social Services who conduct emergency services and support to also perform the coordinated intake duties. Mr. Becketts pointed out that the goal is to possibly coordinate some type of data management with CHIN.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden expressed concern that DSS did not receive any rapid re-housing money. She felt that it appeared that they would have been the first to qualify for the money and she hopes in the future the process will be open enough that DSS will be aware of it and can apply to receive money. Because they see so many people, they are also the agency that is helping. She added that they have to look at the prevention of homelessness.

Mr. Becketts commented that DSS was not clear that the application process was open and they didn't learn about it until after it was closed.

**Subject: Follow up Items**

Project Manager Lloyd Schmeidler (Department of Community Development) provided some background information on Winston Salem's relationship with the United Way of Forsythe County as it relates to the work Winston Salem is doing to address homelessness.

Through e-mail conversations with Tim Wes, Planning Program Supervisor (City of Winston Salem Community & Business Development Department) Mr. Schmeidler was informed that the development of Winston Salem's 10 Year Plan was similar to how Durham's 10 Year Plan was created. The United Way of Forsythe County became the lead agency in implementing Winston Salem's 10 Year Plan and continues to do so.

Mr. Schnars conducted a demonstration of a GIS mapping tool which is capable of providing demographic information such as race, the number of homeless males, females, veterans, non-veterans and household types.

Additional discussion included providing information specifically for the breakdown of male and female veterans. Mr. Schnars stated that staff could get this information.

In response to Reverend Herndon's comment concerning how many individuals are over 65, Mr. Schnars stated there were 39 males and 16 females that fall in the 62 and over category and just recently at least 7 males and 1 female that are over 62 years old.

**Subject: TCF Fund**

After meetings between the Executive Committee of HSAC and the Triangle Community Foundation (TCF), it was determined that the \$10,000 contained in the TCF fund would be managed by the Foundation and run by the HSAC. The fund will potentially grow by contributions. TCF is asking the HSAC to decide if they want to do a rapid re-housing project. They also suggested that a few organizations who are already involved may want to collaborate. Chair Forte-Brown asked Committee Members to provide target areas that they would like to see the fund used for. Suggestions given by HSAC members included:

- ❖ Homeless Prevention (Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden)
- ❖ Housing for Youth (Committee Member Love)
- ❖ Youth Awareness (Reverend Herndon)

Chair Forte-Brown gave a brief update concerning the Mayor's initiative on ending poverty neighborhood by neighborhood. She talked about the breakfast that was held recently at the Center for Hope on the campus of the Durham Rescue Mission where leaders met to discuss ways of attacking poverty. Five task force committees in the categories of Employment, Education, Housing, Crime Prevention and Health have been assigned to look at this issue of poverty.

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Committee Member Stoppelkamp wanted to know how to contact the leaders of the task force. Chair Forte-Brown stated that whenever the list of names of the Co-Chairs is made public then HSAC members should contact the Co-Chair of the task force that they would like to work with.

Reginald Johnson, Director (Department of Community Development) stated that staff will send the list of names out to HSAC members.

Chair Forte-Brown also noted that at the breakfast there was some discussion about having a simulation of poverty to experience how it really feels to be face-to-face with poverty.

**Subject: 100K Homes Campaign**

At the last HSAC meeting staff was directed to draft a proposal for the 100K Homes Campaign. According to Mr. Schmeidler, staff is in the process of developing this proposal on implementing a 100K Homes initiative in Durham. A community assessment tool will be used to help in creating the proposal as well to get some idea on implementing some of the strategies that are crucial to developing an effective 100K Homes initiative.

Mayor Pro Tempore Cole-McFadden wanted to know who the community stakeholders were. Mr. Schmeidler responded that when the community assessment is conducted HSAC Members will be invited to participate and provide their feedback. The self-assessments will also be sent to outreach programs, emergency shelter programs and permanent supportive housing programs. Participants in The Council to End Homelessness in Durham will be invited to complete the community assessment as well.

Further discussion and comments were made concerning the 100K Homes Campaign and the Housing First requirements. Committee Member McCollers expressed her concern and asked if the HSAC adopts the Housing First model how will it impact the compliance piece that the federal government requires such as criminal background checks for homeless people to get housing.

Chair Forte-Brown commented that there is some clarity needed on the matter of Housing First and she asked that staff continue to investigate.

Committee Member Stoppelkamp noted that the key thing with Housing First is that you get the person stable with housing and then deal with any employment, substance abuse or mental health issue they may have.

Reverend Herndon pointed out that research on neighborhood incubators is needed.

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In response to Darryl Hicklen's (USA Veterans/Healing With CAARE, Inc.) question regarding what the poverty benchmark is for Durham County, Mr. Schnars stated that it is \$14,000 for one person.

**Subject: HSAC Meetings**

Durham County has volunteered the use of a conference room in the new Human Services Complex to hold HSAC meetings. Beginning on April 23, 2014 the HSAC will meet at 3:00 p.m. at the Durham County Human Services Building located at 414 E. Main Street in one of the conference rooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Free parking is available in the lot on the east side of the building.

**Subject: Adjourn**

With no further business to come before the body, Chair Forte-Brown adjourned the meeting at 4:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted  
Sheila Bullock, Office of the City Clerk